Empowering aspiring students to pursue their passion for Science, Technology and Research

This scholarship prepares you to set the foundation in research and take a deep dive in your area of research during the PhD journey. Students will have the opportunity to work with some of the world’s leading researchers across the A*STAR ecosystem for a rewarding career ahead.

At A*STAR Graduate Academy, we strongly believe that diversity in talent fosters innovation, forward-thinking and interdisciplinary research. We welcome you to join our community of curious minds to share fresh perspectives to help overcome ever-evolving challenges in the field of science and research. As a National Science Scholarship (BS-PhD) scholar at A*STAR, you have the opportunity to study overseas to receive the highest quality education from the best schools and leading Universities from across the globe. You can look forward to making significant contributions to Science, Singapore, and Singaporeans.

Application Deadlines

1 April : For research attachment by September
1 October : For research attachment before September (the following year)
Successful applicants will receive the following support* for up to six years:

- Full tuition fees, mandatory health insurance and miscellaneous fees
- Monthly sustenance allowance, inclusive of CPF contribution (where applicable)
- Monthly overseas living allowance
- Annual return airfare
- Other allowances include:
  - Conference
  - Thesis
  - Computer
  - Settling-in
  - Language programme fees
  - Warm clothing

NSS (PhD) scholars may receive up to 6 years of funding to complete a Master's degree if:

- The Master's degree is a prerequisite for entry into their desired PhD programme e.g. in the European Union; and
- The Master's University is approved by A*GA

Mid-term NSS (PhD) awardees will be offered the same terms of support as the full-term NSS (PhD) awardees from the point of the award, with retrospective payment for all tuition fees and/or any compulsory fees from Year 1 of study onwards.

Rates/allowances vary according to country and university, and are subject to adjustments by A*STAR periodically.

For scholars studying in countries where English is not the official language.

NSS (PhD) scholars will serve at one of A*STAR's research institutions for four years. Scholars who complete their PhD in a country where English is not the official language would serve a three-year service commitment instead.

For full-term applicants

- Be Singaporean.
- Have a strong interest in research
- Have attained a good class of honours degree or equivalent in relevant disciplines

For mid-term applicants

- Be Singaporean.
- Enrolled in a top overseas university and minimally complete at least 1 semester at the point of scholarship application.
- On track to attain excellent academic standing for current degree.
- Good research potential and/or achievements.
- Current university supervisor to be at least 1 out of the 2 academic referees.

It will be an advantage for candidates to have a good track record in research and/or relevant work experience.

The above criteria are not exhaustive. For complete eligibility criteria, refer to our website for more information.

**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

**RESEARCH AREAS**

The PhD programmes fall under these four categories:

- Biomedical Sciences
- Computing and Information Sciences
- Engineering and Technology
- Physical Sciences

**RESEARCH ATTACHMENT**

Mandatory one-year attachment at an A*STAR Research Institute prior to commencement of PhD studies.

**SERVICE COMMITMENT**

NSS (PhD) scholars will serve at one of A*STAR's research institutions for four years. Scholars who complete their PhD in a country where English is not the official language would serve a three-year service commitment instead.

Apply Now!

Find Out More!

For more information, visit a-star.edu.sg/nss-phd.
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. When should I apply for the scholarship and how long will the application process take?

There are two application cycles each year, the deadlines are 1 April and 1 October. It takes about five months to process the scholarship applications from the date of submission deadline. You are strongly encouraged to plan ahead and apply.

Successful applicants would be required to complete a one-year research attachment in A*STAR prior to embarking on their PhD programme.

2. What is the application and interview process like?

You are required to submit your application online. Your application will be reviewed upon submission of all required documents (including at least two referee reports, a description of your proposed research area and all academic credentials). As part of the evaluation process, there will be at least two rounds of interviews involving A*STAR's top management and researchers.

3. Can a non-Singaporean apply for the National Science Scholarship (PhD)?

Yes. Permanent residents and non-Singaporeans who are awarded the NSS (PhD) will be required to take up Singapore citizenship by the end of third year of their PhD studies. If you are holding both Singapore citizenship and foreign citizenship/PR, you are required to divest your foreign citizenship or permanent residency status as soon as possible.

4. Do I have to serve a bond at A*STAR after completing my PhD and/or Postgraduate studies? How long is the service commitment period?

NSS (PhD) scholars will serve the bond at one of A*STAR's Research Institutes for a period of four years.

5. Will there be any post-doctoral training abroad after the conferment of my PhD?

NSS (PhD) scholars who complete their PhDs in less than five years may consider using their remaining funding for a post-doctoral training. Scholars should seek A*STAR's written approval for the use of their remaining funds for post-doctoral training.

Accurate as of 4 Apr 2024.
UNIVERSITIES THAT HAVE HOSTED OUR SCHOLARS

A SPRINGBOARD TO MULTIPLE OPPORTUNITIES

Public Sector
Government Research Admin and Policy

Industry
Industry R&D Industry Corporate Career / Executives Business Development Technology Startups

Commercialisation
Tech Transfer / Commercialisation Patent Examination

Scientific
Principal Investigators Technology Platform Specialists Engineers Senior Scientists Administrators

Academia
Science Education Clinician Scientists

Entrepreneurship
Technology Start-ups

HEAR FROM SOME OF OUR SCHOLARS

Scan to watch our A*STAR NSS (PhD) scholars as they share their journey.
youtu.be/JhF8gY8x6hM

Questions? Contact us at Student_Services@hq.a-star.edu.sg

AGASingapore